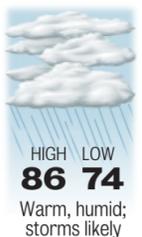


# SUNDAY



HIGH LOW  
**86 74**  
Warm, humid;  
storms likely

- Books D-6
- Classified H
- Deaths B-4
- Editorials B-6
- Living E
- Money F
- Real Estate G
- Sports C
- Travel D



READ THE 'EARLY EDITION' AT 10 P.M. In alliance with The Times-Picayune



Weather, C-16

# THE Saenger



CANAL STREET THEATER AS GRAND AS EVER AT 75 LIVING

## BASEBALL GRIEVES

St. Louis pitcher Darryl Kile found dead in his hotel room **SPORTS**



## PORTSIDE

French investors, state working on deal for Millennium Port land **MONEY**

# The Times-Picayune

\$1.50 166th year No. 151

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2002

SUNDAY CITY EDITION

1918 • ANN LANDERS • 2002



**Ann Landers**, the influential columnist whose plain-spoken and sometimes blunt advice helped millions of readers cope with life, died Saturday. Landers, who was 83, died of multiple myeloma at her Chicago apartment. **See story, A-10**

## Era of big blazes arrives in West, fire officials say

*Years of containment turned forests to fuel*

By **Timothy Egan**  
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WINTHROP, WASH. — The fires came early this year to the West, chasing people out of valleys in Colorado, rousting animals from late slumbers in Alaska, choking the sky with smoke in Arizona woods that have so little moisture they

seem kiln-dried.

The price of holding back nature has come home, fire officials say. A century-long policy of knocking down all fires has created fuel-filled forests that burn hotter and faster than ever. The era of big fires — and with it, the need for big government to contain them — is at hand, many firefighters say. With 1.9 million acres burned by the first day of

See **FIRES, A-12**

► **Show Low, Ariz., townspeople ordered to evacuate, A-13**

## For better or worse, Copeland embroiled in Bodenheimer case

*Embattled judge heard bitter divorce*

By **Martha Carr**  
East Jefferson bureau

Even by Al Copeland standards, his third wedding was a monument to extravagance.

On Valentine's Day 1991, the flashy restaurateur-hotelier and his former office receptionist, Luan Hunter, invited 600 of their closest friends to toast their union in an opulent, heart-themed blowout at the New Orleans



Al Copeland split with his third wife, Luan Hunter, in 2000, sparking a custody battle over their young son.

Museum of Art. Kool & the Gang and LaToya Jackson performed, a helicopter scattered rose petals on the guests, and the send-off concluded with the message "Al,

See **COPELAND, A-8**

## HOW SOUTH LOUISIANA IS GROWING MORE VULNERABLE TO A CATASTROPHIC HURRICANE

# Washing away

It's been almost 40 years since a major hurricane inundated New Orleans. Since Hurricane Betsy's storm surge poured into the city in 1965, our landscape has been sinking and our coastline disappearing. Despite billions of dollars spent on higher levees and flood control, this is no place to be when The Big One inevitably hits.

**FIVE-DAY SPECIAL REPORT, SEE SECTION J INSIDE**



Stories by **John McQuaid** and **Mark Schleifstein** Staff writers  
Photos by **Ellis Lucia** Staff photographer • Graphics by **Daniel Swenson** Staff artist

### TODAY IN HARM'S WAY

Our coastal marsh is sinking into the sea, giving devastating storm surges a clear path to wreak havoc on the region.

### MONDAY THE BIG ONE

Levees that protect from some storms can trap the deadly waters from others. And getting the water out could take months.

### TUESDAY COST OF EXPOSURE

The anticipated damage a major hurricane would cause is adding to the cost of doing business and living in south Louisiana.

### WEDNESDAY TEMPTING FATE

As more people settle on coasts and in other vulnerable areas, natural disasters have been getting more expensive.

### THURSDAY SOLUTIONS?

Rebuilding the coast and eliminating weak spots in levees offer the best chance of protection.

## TRAGIC CODA

*Musician Bran Lange leapt to his death at St. Louis Cathedral, leaving his family with many unanswered questions*

By **Natalie Pompilio**  
Staff writer

Playing the guitar was the best way for Bran Lange to silence the voices in his head.

That's what the gifted 24-year-old musician told his family and friends. The voices had begun whispering to him when he was 19, and he soon learned he could quell them by playing the guitar or writing. Sometimes, the voices told Lange someone was

trying to hurt him. Other times, they made him laugh out loud.

No one will ever know what they were saying on the night of May 3, when Lange climbed the scaffolding around St. Louis Cathedral and leapt to his death. He'd been released from Orleans Parish Prison a day earlier, free after spending almost two months behind bars for possession of a deadly weapon, an old knife found at the bottom of his backpack, his family said.

See **LANGE, A-8**

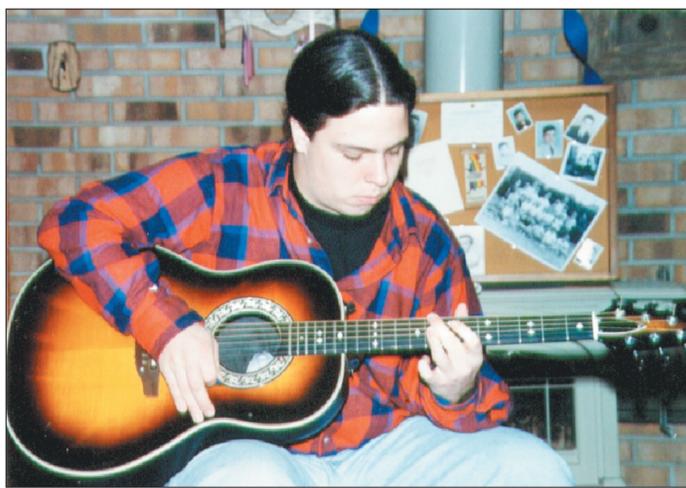


PHOTO COURTESY OF LANGE FAMILY

Bran Lange left Dayton, Ohio, and moved to New Orleans when he was 19. He was a self-taught guitarist and pianist who thought he could make a career of his musical gifts. He died May 3. Police said he jumped from scaffolding surrounding St. Louis Cathedral, and his family can't help but wonder if there was anything they could have done to help him.